



# Summer Meals Newsletter

JANUARY 2017 • STATE AGENCIES

WHILE MOST ARE SETTLING IN FOR WINTER,  
WE'RE HARD AT WORK GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!

## Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

**January 5, 1:00 PM EST | [Mapping the Gap of the Summer Nutrition Programs Webinar](#) (Summer Meals Matter Monthly Training Series) | Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)**

**January 19, 1:00 PM EST | [Summer Fall Policy Release Webinar](#) | USDA FNS**

## What's New Fall Policy Release

Last month, FNS issued new policy guidance on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Topics include area eligibility, meal disallowances, automatic revocation of tax-exempt status, and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). The SFSP Q&A memo was also updated.

Read the new SFSP memos [here](#).

Read the new SSO memo [here](#).

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## Summer EBT Demonstrations: Request for Applications

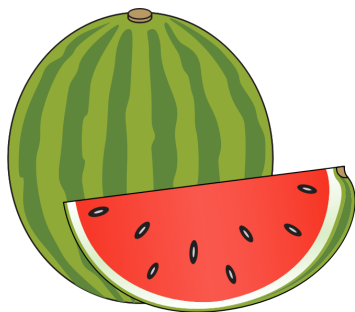
FNS recently released a Request for Applications for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT)! This year FNS is looking to award funds to new applicants to expand the Summer EBT demonstration in addition to awarding experienced applicants that have operated the demonstration in previous years.

If you represent a new State or ITO interested in applying for a Summer EBT grant, submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to FNS by January 13, 2017. Final applications for new applicants must be uploaded onto grants.gov by February 28, 2017. Final applications for experienced grantees must be uploaded onto grants.gov by January 27, 2017. Learn more [here](#).



## MAP Your Farm to Summer Success!

The Management and Administrative Plan (MAP) for State agencies is due **February 15**. The MAP is an opportunity for States to outline strategies aimed at improving and expanding Summer Meals. That's why many regions encourage States to move beyond the requirements and include tactics that support sponsors' goals of improving meal quality, enhancing programming, and attracting children to sites—like Farm to Summer!



### Summer Spotlight

The Northeast Regional Office (NERO) asks States to describe how they will support sponsors use of local foods and food-related educational activities. The goal of the addendum is for State agencies to include activities that can support and promote Farm to Summer among summer meals sponsors. This Farm to Summer focus can enhance the taste and appeal of meals, connect children to local agriculture, and draw participants to sites through engaging programming. The NERO MAP recommends States incorporate the following best practices:

- Integrate farm to summer guidance and materials at sponsor trainings
- Include resources about purchasing local products on websites and post a link to the [USDA Farm to Summer](#) webpage
- Identify state-level grant funds/resources that can support farm to summer activities
- Identify and collaborate with statewide farm to school/summer partnering organizations
- Identify model programs, collect, document, and promote best practices

While it may seem early, now is the perfect time to connect with farmers and the agriculture community to enhance States' Farm to Summer efforts. For more information on including Farm to Summer in your MAP, reach out to your [regional](#) Farm to School or Farm to Summer contact.